

# OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB BULLETIN

VOL. 33, NO. 20

DECEMBER 1, 1978

HOTEL BILTMORE • 55 EAST 43RD STREET • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017 • (212) 687-2430

## Semi-Annual Meeting Report

The semi-annual meeting of the Overseas Press Club was held October 25, with a better turnout than on previous occasions. President *Henry Gellermann* reported that while the club's outlook is improving, there are still numerous problems facing us.

He reiterated his previous statements that "in order to meet the club's outstanding obligations, earnings have to be improved, and operating income based solely on membership dues will be insufficient in the foreseeable future to meet the rising cost spiral."

He reported that the club is currently engaged in litigation with the Biltmore's previous owners, Realty Hotels, over a substantial amount accrued out of a 1974 lease, guaranteeing the hotel a daily luncheon or dinner patronage of 85 covers. He said this target never was met.

*Harry Rand*, co-chairman of the

### NOTICE - BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD BENEFITS

Children of members reaching the age of 19 years in 1978 will no longer be covered under the family plan as of December 31, 1978. Contact OPC office for transfer form to have child covered on an individual basis.

Membership Committee, reported that club membership currently stands at 1,439. Treasurer *Anita Diamant Berke* received well-deserved applause when she reported a net operating profit of \$5,700 for the year, compared to \$600 last year.

*Gloria Zukerman*, who co-chairs Shop Talk with *Larry Stessin*, said: "We work to present the most informative people in their field, but we want to see many more members turning out, not only to hear them, but to ask questions." *David Anderson*, Headliners luncheon chairman, said his committee will continue to bring news-

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## CHRISTMAS PARTY

Bring friends! Bring spouses!  
Bring the kids! New members!  
Old members! In-betweeners!

Everyone's invited to  
an old-fashioned Christmas party!

Place: Overseas Press Club

Date: Tuesday, December 19

Time: 5:30 P.M. till

Price: \$2 per person

Details: members, please bring gifts for the grab bag (which should cost no more than \$2 each) - one for yourself, and one for each member of your party.

Entertainment! Door prizes!  
Grab bag! Cash bar!

The Club welcomes you!

Make a new friend for Christmas!

## Club To Mark Human Rights Day

The Overseas Press Club will observe the 30th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 5:30 p.m. Dec. 14 at the Biltmore. OPC President *Henry Gellermann* will unveil a plaque listing the names of journalists around the world in detention or who have disappeared after forcible arrest. *William Wipfler*, human rights director of the National Council of Churches will speak about the media and human rights. *Larry Cox*, press and information officer of Amnesty International, will discuss Amnesty International's Journalists Urgent Action Network. They will be followed by a discussion period.

The OPC Human Rights subcommittee has been conducting extensive research to compile accurate, up-to-date records of imprisoned journalists. If any member has any information pertaining to colleagues in detention or who have disappeared after arrest, please leave word for Human Rights subcommittee coordinator *Laurie Nadel* in the OPC office.

## UNESCO Debate At OPC Dec. 6

Maybe *Kipling* was right - East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet - at least in matters concerning a free press.

In modern terms, one conflict has been that the West considers the press a critic of society, while today's Third World - which includes some of *Kipling's* East - feels it should be a servant of society; even an agency of the government.

A controversial draft declaration on news coverage which was debated at the Paris conference of UNESCO this fall reflects this difference of opinion: most Western newsmen consider it a threat to a free press. To give OPC guests a firsthand report on the conference and the declaration, our Headliner luncheon chairman *Dave Anderson* has set up a round-table discussion Wednesday, December 6 at the Biltmore.

## SPECIAL BULLETIN

The United States Commission for UNESCO announced that it would hold a press and membership briefing on the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's 20th general conference which recently concluded in Paris at the Overseas Press Club on Wednesday, December 6 starting at 11:00 a.m. The briefing will precede a special Headliner Luncheon at which the merits of a declaration on world news coverage will be debated.

Principal speaker will be *Leonard Marks*, secretary-treasurer of the World Press Freedom Committee, who will be back from the conference where he was an official Committee representative. Also invited to give the West's side of the story are *Newsday's* *Bill Atwood*, who was a member of the U.S. delegation, and *TIME's* *Jim Shepley*, who has long been active on the World Press Freedom Committee.

To speak on behalf of the Third World, *Anderson* has invited *Chakrapani Raghavendra* of the Press Trust

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## Kaminsky Named Club Counsel

As the November meeting of the OPC Board of Governors, trial lawyer, champion of a free press and author Martin I. Kaminsky was elected counsel to the Club. Prior to his election, Mr. Kaminsky discussed the club's immediate concern arising over our dispute with Realty Hotels, our former landlord.

A partner in the prestigious Wall Street law firm of Pollack & Kaminsky, Mr. Kaminsky was introduced by board member and *Atlas*' publisher Al Balk. Mr. Balk reported that Mr. Kaminsky's firm specializes in general, trial, appellate and financial and corporate law. An additional qualification is the fact that six years ago Mr. Kaminsky successfully defended reporter Charles Baker, who refused to reveal confidential news sources to a court investigating alleged housing discrimination. The trial referred to as Baker versus F & F Investment, was decided by the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit on December 7, 1972.

A native New Yorker, Mr. Kaminsky was admitted to the bar in 1965 after receiving his B.A. from Yale University and an LL.B. from the Harvard Law School. He is a member of The Association of the Bar of the City of New York; New York State Bar Association and Federal Bar Council.

—Charles Schreiber

## KLAVINS RECITAL

Dr. Janis Klavins, one of the finest singers ever to perform at the Overseas Press Club, gave a return concert Nov. 9. His program was devoted to Schubert's great song cycle "Die Schoene Muellerin."

In addition to being a distinguished physician, Dr. Klavins is the possessor of a splendid baritone voice and has the training and innate musicality to know how to use it. Schubert's 20 songs trace the history of a tragic love affair between a young man and a miller's maid he encounters on his wanderings, and Dr. Klavins with sympathy and skill depicted the wide emotional range of the cycle from joyousness to pathos. It was a rare pleasure to hear these songs set forth with so much style and sympathy.

Ilse Sass was Dr. Klavins' sensitive piano accompanist, and a capacity audience greeted the performance with warm appreciation. Music Committee chairman Jack Frummer presided.

—Herbert Kupferberg

## LETTERS

As a Washington-based non-resident OPC member, I thought it was almost Kafka-like comedy that the Club would provide a "Shop Talk" forum for Mobil's Herb Schmertz, without any plans or provisions for "equal time" balancing his special-interest propaganda pitch. The fact that Schmertz was billed as discussing first amendment "freedom of the press" ideas made it even more ironic, and sort of like inviting the arsonist into the fire-works factory, if indeed the OPC is still considered primarily a press club and not a press agents club. By all means, invite the arsonist in, but at least brief the fire department to his presence.

Schmertz and Company, more than any other, has attempted a conscious and expensive campaign to destroy the credibility of the reporting press, whether it be the broadcasting networks of ABC, CBS or NBC or print media large and small. Whenever a fact is reported that Mobil doesn't like, the rebuttal is invariably massive and aimed at the credibility of the reporting media, rarely to answering that fact.

When Columbia University, for instance, named investigative reporter Chris Welles (not a Mobil favorite) to a key journalism post, the oil company immediately withdrew its \$50,000 grant to the program. Such is indicative of Mobil's "freedom of the press" style.

I might suggest two ways for the Club to handle such Schmertz/Mobil-like usage of OPC forums in the future:

1. Let OPC sell its luncheon and Shop Talk appearances the same as *The New York Times* sells its op-ed space to Mobil and other corporate interests. Then there will be no fantasy of an equal pro-and-con exchange of views and viewpoints — and the Club will make some money besides.

2. Or, better still, invite the controversial special interests to speak, but make it a responsibility of the Club to have a panel of working newsmen to research the speaker and his stands, to be sure the "other-side" questions are posed somehow.

—Tom Mechling  
Washington Watch

(Editor's note: we may not agree with Mr. Schmertz, but we uphold his right to speak at the Club; that's what free speech is all about, and as one of its defenders, we have an obligation to practice it.)

To the Editor:

You're playing up the Myron Farber imprisonment for contempt of court as if it were something new. He's not the only one.

Here's an editorial suggestion without charge:

Set up a "Hell Box" column of newsmen who have been imprisoned for contempt in the last 12 months, citing places and so-called judges, together with time served. I would wager my battered Remington against yours that if set up in 6 pt. it would occupy the whole back page, like "legals."

—Al Keshen

## POST NAMES CODY

Edward Cody has been named editor on *The Washington Post* foreign desk.

Before coming to *The Post*, Cody was a foreign editor with Associated Press in New York, a correspondent in New Delhi and Beirut, and a news editor in Paris. He began his journalism career on the staff of the *Charlotte (N.C.) Observer*.

In 1976 he won the Overseas Press Club award for best daily newspaper reporting for his coverage of the war in Beirut. Cody is a graduate of Gonzaga University in Spokane, Wash., attended the University of Paris Law School, and holds an M.S. degree from the University School of Journalism.

## PLACEMENT

International public relations agency headquartered in mid-Manhattan seeks a senior account staffer with thorough p.r. experience in all media. Special emphasis on marketing of products and consumer services. Salary \$20,000-\$22,000.

The same international p.r. agency seeks a preferably German-born staffer, possibly a freelancer, who is fully aware of the nuances in German and English, and expert in each language both in writing and speaking. Part-time hours: 9-12 A.M., 5 days a week. Payment: \$10 per hour.

Resumes to Helen Alpert, Placement Service, OPC, Biltmore Hotel. Please specify #1 or #2 in your applications. All will be promptly forwarded.

## Roy Alexander, Ex-Time M.E.

Roy Alexander, managing editor of TIME magazine from 1949 to 1960, died October 30 at age eighty. He was well-known to a generation of newsmen in and out of the Time, Inc. organization for his warmth and friendship, as well as his editorial skills.

He came to TIME from *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, where he learned reporting, covering the news highlights beginning with the Lindbergh flight across the Atlantic. A licensed pilot himself, he had flown with Lindbergh in the 1930's and presided over TIME's coverage of the advent of the jet age. Otto Feuerbringer, who followed him as managing editor, also came from *The Post-Dispatch*.



## FROM THE CLUBS

KHON KAEN, THAILAND — Some very rushed info for your Who's Where seekers:

1) Your Oct. 15 issue (just received here in Northeast Thailand today) includes in the Letters column a request from Thomas D.W. Friedmann for the whereabouts of Ed Hymoff. Ed's still in D.C. I don't have his address but do have his phone numbers, namely: home (202) 560-0895, office (202) 293-6830.

2) In today's very same mail I got a letter from Margaret Hampson, 1950 Clay St., Apt. 202, San Francisco 94109. Margaret sounds and is (we saw her not too long ago) as chipper as she was in '48, '49, '59, etc. when she and her late husband Fred (and my former boss!) were covering first the mainland, then Hong Kong (Fred soon became Southeast Asia Bureau Chief) for the AP. Just in case of any other old friends around who might have wanted to get in touch but didn't know the address.

3) As for Doris and I — happy empty nesters; our children are grown and on their own, God bless them — we have been in Khon Kaen, the capital of Northeast Thailand, since June this year, where Doris is finishing her novel (in between trying to shop for and move into a new house and travel around the country with me) and I'm Branch Public Affairs Officer for ICA (formerly USIA). Bangkok-stayers take note that we're only 50 minutes away by plane (or a comfortable overnight train ride) or a 6½-hour drive — and close friends (and even real old enemies!) are invited — assuming of course, that we're not on road, which, except for the flood season, is generally about half of each month.

Best to all.

—Stanley Rich

P.S. Our international mail address for people writing from outside the States is 43/1 Phimpasut Road, Khon Kaen, Thailand.

## UNESCO LUNCHEON

(Continued from page 1)

of India, and Eugene Forson of the Ghana News Agency. Basically, their complaint is that American and European news men are only interested in "calamities, casualties and calumnies." They argue that the press is never interested in "good news" — efforts to raise literacy standards or reduce infant mortality rates. Western journalists counter that news, by its very definition, is a calamity or untoward event. "When the plane lands

## Heart Group Names Winners

Five winners of the first New York Heart Association Media Awards Competition have been announced by Heart Association President Brian Hoffman, M.D. They were among 20 entries submitted from New York City newspapers and broadcasting stations. The competition, to be held annually, is designed to encourage the use of the mass media in educating the public about cardiovascular disease.

In the radio category, Carol Colman of WRFM won for a 25-part series on diet and overweight called "Measure for Measure," which the judges called "an extremely well-researched and written piece" on a subject of importance to many people.

Father and daughter team Frank and Pamela Field of WNBC won the television category for one of their *Health Field* broadcasts entitled "Stroke: The Great Crippler." The program contained a film of a patient suffering a stroke and talking about it afterward.

A WNET/Channel 13 show called "Help Yourself: Heart Attack," won in the special award category for "efforts to promote behavioral modification in smoking, diet or hypertension." According to the judges, the show "covers all the important risk factors of heart disease and reflects tremendous effort on the part of the producers to present a complete picture." Those responsible for the show were Gregory Jackson, executive producer, and Edith Marks and Joyce Peters, producers.

## BUSINESS DIRECTORY

A directory of New York business press editors has been published by New York Business Press Editors, Inc., Werner N. Brandis, president. Copies may be obtained by writing to P.O. Box 577, Grand Central Station, New York 10017. Price is \$15.

on time, it's not a story; when one crashes, it is front page news."

Dave Anderson says this could be the most important Headliner luncheon of the year, so make your reservations early (Mary Novick, 687-2430.) An additional bit of advice: effective Dec. 1, Headliner and Shop Talk prices go up \$1 for guests to \$9.50, reflecting higher costs of catering lunch by the Biltmore; price for members remains unchanged at \$7.50.

—Charles Schreiber

Judges selected two newspaper articles to receive honorable mention for their contribution to public education. They were "What Coronary Bypass Surgery Does and Doesn't Do," a piece by Jane E. Brody that appeared in her Personal Health column in the *New York Times*, and "Cholesterol: And Now for Dessert, More Lipoproteins," by Ed Edelson of the *New York Daily News*. The judges called Ms. Brody's piece "a well-balanced view of a subject that has drawn a lot of public attention." Mr. Edelson's article was described as "a timely piece that makes a difficult subject understandable to the lay public."

## Modine Manufacturing Company

is one of the nation's largest producers of radiators for automobiles, trucks, and farm and construction vehicles. Modine is also a major manufacturer of heating, air conditioning and ventilating equipment for industrial and commercial buildings. The company is preparing for future growth with an aggressive new product development program.

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## OPC BULLETIN

*Published on the 1st and 15th of each month  
by the Overseas Press Club of America,  
Inc. Air-mailed to members overseas. First-  
class mail to others.*

*John Guenther, Chairman and Editor; Helen  
Alpert, Matt Bassity, Ruth Biemiller, George  
Burns, Blythe Foote Finke, Ben G. Frank,  
Thomas J. Kramer, Ralph Leviton, Rosalind  
Moore, Grace Naismith, Rebecca Riger.*



## Who, What, Where

By GRACE NAISMITH

**BOOKS:** **Ralph Gardner**, host of the radio talk show, *Ralph Gardner's Bookshelf*, is the author of "Horatio Alger or the American Hero Era," published by Arco. Gardner was recently awarded a scroll of recognition by the Horatio Alger Awards Committee for his definitive and authoritative book.

**ANNIVERSARY:** **Cecil Brown**, former OPC president, and Martha, his lovely wife for 40 years, have had a "second honeymoon" in Italy, where Brown was a Rome correspondent in 1938. The Browns live in Los Angeles, and in January, Cecil will begin his 11th year teaching at California State University, Pomona.

**NEW LOOK:** **Peter J. Brennan**, has started a service called "Worldtech," which will cover the international organizations for the business, trade and technical media. Brennan is also serving as Senior Advisor to OPIC (Overseas Private Investment Corporation) for a new U.N. group, the UNIDO (Industrial Investment Promotion Service - North America.) Brennan has recently had articles on the U.N. Disarmament Conference in the Oct. *Our World* and on NOW accounts in the Oct. *Banking*.

**WEDDING:** **Sam Summerlin** was father of the groom Nov. 18 when his son, Thomas Anthony Summerlin married Robin Lynn Brady in Lynchburg, Va. Sam is vice president and assistant general manager The New York Times News Service and Syndication Sales Corporation. Thomas is public relations coordinator for the Y.M.C.A. and Robin is an administrative assistant with the Virginia Employment Commission in Lynchburg.

**TRAVELING:** **Robert Black**, Commodore of the Overseas Yacht Club, is back from Hawaii, where he visited the John Luters at "their absolutely marvelous home overlooking Diamond Head and Waikiki." John, former OPC president, is chairman of the Journalism Department of the University of Hawaii.

**HOUSE NOTES:** **Helen Lund** has been named OPC Hospitality Chairman by **Henry Gellermann**. Anyone wishing to join her committee can do so by dropping her a note at the Club... *The International Herald Tribune*, published in Paris and flown to New York daily, can now be found in our lounge, compliments of the publisher, along with *Newsweek*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *Atlas*.

P.S.: Author of the *St. Louis Globe Democrat* story on **Elmer Lower** men-

tioned in the last Bulletin was Col. James H. Higgs.

**Millicent Brower** has a by-line interview with composer Harold Rome, on Barbra Streisand's first successful Broadway audition, in the October 31 issue of the *National Enquirer*. She also has a by-line feature interview with actor Stefan Schnabel, star of the television soap opera, "The Guiding Light", in the November 21 issue of *The Star*. And a poem of hers for children entitled "The Old Hatrack" was given a full page in the children's magazine, *Cricket*, in the October issue. Coming up is a diet story for the *Enquirer*, done with dietician **Naomi Koshkin** of Houston, also a member of OPC.

### SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

(Continued from page 1)

worthy people to the club, and possibly begin a "Headliners Evening."

Gellermann praised the work of many committee chairmen and chairwomen, including *Grace Naismith*, *Anita Diamant Berke*, *Larry Stessin* and *Gloria Zukerman*, *John Guenther* and *Charles Schreiber* for turning out a new and attractive *Bulletin*, *Bob Sheridan* of the Awards Dinner committee, and *Wilma Dobie* of the Jazz Committee. He advised the membership that, as provided by the club's Constitution, he has changed *Harry Rand's* status from associate to active "in recognition of outstanding service to the club." The announcement was applauded.

In closing, Gellermann said the Executive Committee is currently reviewing the club's present and future operations, and a report will be made to membership in the near future.

Are your name, title, and address correct? If not... make corrections on the mailing panel below, insert in envelope and return it to the OPC!

Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.  
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### COMPIX CUTS BACK

**United Press International** is discontinuing its commercial photography department effective December 1. Roy Mehlman, COMPIX director, said UPI would continue to sell newspictures but that it no longer would accept commercial photo assignments.

UPI inaugurated its concept of a nationwide network of specially selected commercial photographers forty years ago. In 1964-65 COMPIX was official photographer for the New York World's Fair.

UPI's picture library business, an offshoot of its worldwide newspictures gathering operation, remains a leader in its field. Currently in preparation is a catalogue containing 15,000 of the more than 8,000,000 file photos. The catalogue is being submitted to the Guinness Book of Records for most pictures in a one-volume edition.

Although it does not intend to resume commercial photography operations, United Press International will retain rights to the COMPIX and Signature Group names.